

Greetings Delaware Shorebirders!

We are always looking toward planning another successful season! The Delaware Shorebird Project actively monitors migrating shorebirds during their brief, but spectacular stopover on the DE Bay. There are few places in the world that can rival the biological spectacle of the heaving shoreline during May, as birds vie for horseshoe crab eggs along the tide line. The project's monitoring work would not be possible without the commitment of a large base of volunteers. We provide the opportunity to appreciate the enormity of the stopover frenzy, while working alongside researchers collecting necessary data to ensure proper management of the species. Should you volunteer you can expect to be out resighting marked shorebirds on the beach, be involved in catch attempts, and the opportunity to collect process and record data necessary for the project's survival. During this time we also estimate flock size and do other work to better understand the size of the population staging in the Bay. It is with the strong scientific data the volunteers collect that contribute to making educated conservation decisions possible. All of the work conducted and data collected by the volunteers of the DE Shorebird Project is critical to furthering our understanding of Red Knots and other shorebirds that migrate through the Bay in the spring. Ultimately, there is something for volunteers of all skill levels and abilities to do! If this sounds like a good time and something you would like to do, please become involved!

A field house base of operations will be secured that provides somewhat limited space so if you plan on making use of the facilities begin the application process soon. We work 7 days a week to collect all of the data needed during the short migratory period, roughly May 7-June 3, so there is always something to do that fits your schedule. We do ask that you try to contribute at least **3 to 4** days to the project to offset training. This amount of time is intended to expose you to all aspects of the project and give you an opportunity to develop your skills in resighting and banding teamwork. Our online training modules are available and I encourage you to review them. We will have a short orientation when you arrive to the field station in Slaughter Beach but most of the training will be in the field while you are collecting data. What better way to learn than with birds on the shore or in the hand!

What to do now:

Plan to come to the Bay in May? Please send an introductory email March-April with the following information:

- 1) Previous experience working in the field, wildlife experience, birding etc.
- 2) Days you can commit to volunteering with the project.
- 3) A positive attitude and inquisitive mind.

Thank you for your interest! We welcome questions and hope to see you out on the beaches in May!

The Delaware Shorebird Project Team

Contact:

Email: deshorebirds@gmail.com

Review the training modules and other information on our website at www.fw.delaware.gov/shorebirds. You can also find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Delaware-ShorebirdProject/116129065093576>